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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 6 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 5 August 1998 addressed to you from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Dr. A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Letter dated 5 August 1998 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afganistan addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to communicate the following:

The Taliban mercenary group, aided and abetted by Pakistan military intelligence personnel, continue to commit crimes against humanity and crimes of war in the occupied parts of Afghanistan. Based on their retrograde and primitive ideology, justifying themselves by their bigotry and intolerance, ethnic supremacy and chauvinism, the Taliban mercenaries continue to perpetrate heinous crime against civilian population of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan would like to draw your attention to the following acts committed by the Taliban, with the direct involvement of interservices intelligence (ISI) and military personnel of Pakistan, in north-western Afghanistan.

1. Forced deportation.

About four thousand families from the recently invaded city of Maymana, about two thousand families from the Almar and Qaisar districts of Faryab province and about two thousand families from Sheberghan have been deported to western part of Afghanistan.

Two thousand young civilians of Faryab province have been deported to Kandahar, south of the headquarters of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

2. Forced conscription.

The Taliban mercenaries compel the youth of Faryab province to take part in the war against their own people. Already they have imposed forced conscription in the regions under their occupation since 1996.

3. Pillaging and looting of property.

The Taliban mercenaries started extensive appropriation of property belonging to the Uzbek and Tajik residents of newly occupied territories. They are confiscating and transporting their private property to the western part of Afghanistan by military trucks.

4. Attacks on the civilian population.

During their military operations, the Taliban mercenary group intentionally directed attacks against the civilian population and civilian property, as well as individuals not taking direct part in the hostilities.

5. Depriving the civilian population of a means of survival.

The Taliban mercenary group is deliberately trying to inflict on the other ethnic groups in Afghanistan conditions of life calculated to bring about the extermination in whole or in part of these ethnic groups. The continuing Taliban food blockade of the Hazara ethnic group civilian population of central Afghanistan during long months has provided clear evidence of this evil intention.

In addition to this, after the recent occupation of Faryab and Sheberghan, the Taliban have appropriated the carpet weaving tools of the Uzbeks and their herds and transferred it to Kandahar.

The above-mentioned crimes are committed intentionally with the goal of forcing the inhabitants of these provinces to leave their homelands. Since the occupiers are strangers, they are unable to gain the confidence of the population.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan earnestly expects the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to verify the situation in the north-western part of Afghanistan recently attacked by the Taliban.

We are firmly convinced that the responsibility of the Pakistani Government is fully established in accordance with the General Assembly's definition of aggression of December 1974, which, inter alia, considered as aggression the sending by or on behalf of a State of armed bands, groups, irregulars or mercenaries to carry out acts of armed force against another State. Furthermore, owing to the existence of military personnel of Pakistan in the military operations of the Taliban and the expressed declaration of Gohar Ayub Khan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, about the planned occupation of Afghanistan by the mercenaries (see annex II), the responsibility of Pakistan as an aggressor and accomplice in crimes committed in Afghanistan is well established.

Annex II

Pakistan's plan for Afghanistan

The following is a translation of the press interview with the Pakistani Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, conducted by the Arabic daily, Sharq-alq-Aousat, on 5 August 1998, in London.

Q. Is it right that Pakistan has great sympathy for the Taliban in Afghanistan?

A. Yes, that is right.

Q. Why did the Taliban attack northern Afghanistan?

A. Because the Taliban are approaching Mazaar-e-Sharif and it is anticipated that, within the next few days, the city will surrender to the Taliban. The Taliban are gaining increasing victories and they have the support of the civilian population. The Taliban have besieged the city from two sides, from the direction of Sheberghan and Balkh and from the direction of Kunduz.

The Taliban will launch an offensive from Kunduz proceeding towards Hairatan, located on the border with Uzbekistan, and moving on to Pul-I-Khumry, blocking the Saalang Pass and ceasing all contacts with Ahmad Shah Massoud. As such, I predict that in the coming days either Mazaar-e-Sharif will surrender to the Taliban or that intense fighting will take place ... And I hope that no battles will occur.

Q. It seems you are quite aware of the Taliban plan to capture Mazaar-e-Sharif?

A. (Smile, without a word).

Q. Have you given up on the dialogue between the Afghan warring factions?

A. We made active efforts to establish a dialogue between them, but now we must observe the situation on the ground. Only afterwards can we suggest a plan for negotiations. Some Afghan leaders will vanish within days. Or it is possible they will flee Afghanistan, and new realities will come into play. The situation is volatile. One must wait and see what will happen.